

Early Learning Advisory Council

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July 16, 2019

Minutes

Call to Order

Adrian Alfonso, ELAC Chair – Miami-Dade/Monroe

- Meeting called to order, 9:00 a.m.
- Housekeeping.
- Welcome of New Chairs.
- Roll Call.

Members representing the following Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) and appointees: Duval, Emerald Coast, Escambia, Hillsborough, IRMO, Lake, Manatee, Miami Dade/Monroe, North Florida, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Southwest Florida, House Representative.

Members representing the following ELCs and appointees participating via conference call: Big Bend, Flagler/Volusia, Polk.

- Quorum not reached.
- Review of public comment process.

Review of Current/Past Agendas and Minutes

Adrian Alfonso, ELAC Chair – Miami-Dade/Monroe

- Quorum not reached. Unable to vote on and approve agendas or minutes.

OEL Agency Update

Legislative Update

Rodney J. MacKinnon, OEL Executive Director

- Session begins early this year so committee weeks will begin in a couple of months.
- OEL legislative affairs has moved to the Department of Education (DOE).
- The US House of Representatives has passed a budget that gives our program a significant amount of additional federal funds. Not sure if the Senate will agree, but the potential is there.
- The funding formula report is due October 1.
- Budget:
 - General revenue is essentially state funds.
 - Two-thirds of budget is School Readiness (SR) and SR related activities.
 - The funding for VPK has shrunk to about one-third of budget.
 - Feds gave substantial amount of additional funding in VPK. It goes up every year as the population of four year olds grow.
- The special projects we fund; T.E.A.C.H., Hippy and Help Me Grow.
- One new project this year: *Linking Educational Assets for Readiness Now*. DOE is taking lead on this.
- Wait list has decreased as funding has increased.
- VPK participation rate has leveled off at about 75 percent. However, economists think that it will decline to about 72 percent.

EFS Modernization

- We have added additional positions to help with EFS Mod. and asked staff to focus more on data fixes rather than development.

- Rolled out an issue reporting process in Cherwell, which is a SharePoint type service.

Discussion

Victor Mraz (SWFL): Can you go back over the question of the funding formula and where it sits right now?

Rodney J. MacKinnon (OEL) – That work requires a lot of data and demographics and the people involved in that are currently devoted to cleaning up EFS Mod. OPPAGA is currently onsite and want to do a report on the formula as well, so we are still in the development process of it.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Any other questions for Rodney or OEL?

Victor Mraz (SWFL): Did he go over EFS Mod.?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Yes. Did you have any questions regarding that?

Victor Mraz (SWFL): Yes. From what I understand, we have a new deadline of Sept. 10 for reconciliation, is that correct? When do you realistically think it's going to be operational? We couldn't focus on other metrics at the ELC because of playing catch up with EFS Mod.

Rodney J. MacKinnon (OEL): The books will close in Sept. on the 18-19 fiscal year. We have added to our staff and have been bringing coalitions to Tallahassee to do one-on-one training. I know it is far from an "ideal" situation, but we just have to push through.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): Has there been any kind of response or statement with regard to some sort of hold harmless or release of liability of some type from the statute or legislative waiver to the 4% administrative costs? I know a lot has been said at previous ELAC meetings, but would feel better to have something in writing, whether it comes from OEL or the legislature. ELC board is stuck between a rock and a hard place with meeting OEL reconciliation deadlines by hiring additional staff or violate state law.

Rodney J. MacKinnon (OEL): I responded to Susan Block with the directive to try to get the reconciliation done by Sept. Exceeding the cap will be noted, but it is uncertain what the actual consequences are.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Have you heard from the commissioner's office in regard to Victor's letter at all?

Rodney J. MacKinnon (OEL): We drafted a proposed response. I am sure he will be sending it out soon.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Victor, have you received a response from the commissioner's office?

Victor Mraz (SWFL): No not yet. I am in the process now of drafting a follow-up letter to the Governor.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Victor, do you think the rest of us should do the same because the rest of us are in the exact same boat.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): That was the intent of including everyone. Rising tides float all ships, just like falling tides sink all ships. We are in a position now where all of our ships are sinking. We have accepted responsibilities to do the right thing by our children and our communities and we are being placed in a position where we can't do that effectively.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): I agree. The best practices committee has been discussing ways to improve communication amongst chairs and increase impact. Instead of one voice, multiple voices with same message may have made it a louder cry.

Ralph Arza (House Rep.): So, the commissioner's office hasn't responded? Was there any attempt to call?

Victor Mraz (SWFL): No.

Ralph Arza (House Rep.): Rodney, have you tried to reach out on behalf of ELAC?

Rodney J. MacKinnon (OEL): The commissioner has seen the letter and the response will be forthcoming.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Are there any other comments/questions on this or anything else for OEL? Next is the committee updates, but before we get there, I would like to get feedback from the chairs on if we should continue doing what we are doing. One of the things I spoke with Rodney about is taking the formalization of ELAC away (out from under sunshine law). We could then continue meeting, but without being under such strict rules.

Van Mansker (Emerald Coast): I don't see where a lot gets done at these meetings. I think we would be better served to meet with ED's opposed to this. If we don't have a voice to do anything there is no point.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): I would have to agree with Van. Maybe we have a small breakout for the chairs during the ED meeting for half a day.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Are we going to condense the meetings and do some via phone?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): We have tried to hold the meetings via conference call, but in the past, it has been a waste of time.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): Being a new board chair, I have been at the last several meetings. I raised my hand to say I'd be chair of a committee and I haven't gotten any guidance on how to move forward. I did not receive an agenda for this meeting or a package. Emails are still going to my old email. We need to start holding OEL accountable.

Alan Bergman (Brevard): I believe getting together, as a group is beneficial, but via conference call is not effective. I would like to see less meetings a year.

Ralph Arza (House Rep.): Either give council more authority or get rid of it. I am willing to meet with commissioner on behalf of the board. I'd like to have issues in writing so I can address everything the board wants brought up. We need to ask them to act.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): My personal opinion is to group us with the Executive Director meetings.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): We could meet once a year in person and the other three meetings via conference call, which would satisfy the statute.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Any other input?

Rodney J. MacKinnon (OEL): If ELAC were to be disbanded in statute, it would certainly not prevent you from meeting and OEL would still accommodate it. The ED's all meet and that isn't in statute, but it is something we pay for and coordinate. The sunshine law hinders the open flow of dialogue.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): I have been coming for years and these meetings used to be on Friday. Do you think that would make a difference in quorum? I think that has something to do with attendance.

Jessica Fowler (OEL): I would like to clarify that the 2020 meetings will go back to the Thursday/Friday pattern; however, this quarter's meeting is coordinated with the One Goal Conference every year because most of the ED's attend conference.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Once a year would be fine, but not every meeting.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Switching up the days was a recommendation that came out of this board. It was discussed that it may be more beneficial to work around conferences, session etc. However, I do agree that Friday's are better. We can go back to the Thursday/Friday pattern.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): You said earlier Elyn tried to do something during session?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Yes. We had multiple meetings and went over the statute and what we were going to change and we voted on the changes discussed. We had a conference call after the meeting during hurricane Irma to discuss next steps and very few called in. She was just not able to get changes made. Maybe in the committee breakouts we can discuss what we would like to see moving forward. It would be nice to come up with recommendations to give Rodney and OEL.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): A lot of that conversation would depend on what the legislature does. If they do as we originally asked and remove us from under OEL so we report to the Governor's Office, there would be more of a push to meet in person.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Any other comments/questions on this? I encourage during committee breakouts, to discuss this to some capacity.

Committee Updates

Leigh Giunta (IRMO) – Policy, Legislation & Finance Committee

- Committee did not meet.

Marcus Rowe (Duval) – Best Practices and Communication Committee

- We have a very small, but very passionate committee.
- Outlined what we are trying to accomplish as a committee and how to move forward.
- Want to understand and hear from other members on issues their ELC is and concerns they have. How do we solicit concerns and what is the best form of communication to respond?

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough) – ELAC Strategic Planning and Rules Committee

- We did not have many members join, but we have attendees that are not on the committee.
- We discussed the ELAC vision/mission statements that were finalized last ELAC meeting.
- We will be talking about the future of ELAC in our breakout today.

Committee Breakouts

Committee Report Outs

Adrian Alfonso, ELAC Chair – Miami-Dade/Monroe

- Before we get into the report out, the proposed statutory changes voted on and approved by ELAC are on screen. Jessica just sent them out to the board via email as well. Representative Arza is meeting with the Commissioner sometime soon. My recommendation is for him to take proposed statutory changes to the Commissioner and explain that this is what ELAC wanted to do last session.

Discussion

Ralph Arza (House Rep.): My upcoming meeting with the commissioner is not about this. However, I will request to set up an additional meeting regarding ELAC specifically and we discussed that Evelio Torres (ED of MDM) will attend with me. In addition, I do not feel comfortable bringing up the letter that Victor wrote. We discussed that Victor can reach out to have that conversation on his own.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Is anyone here opposed to that?

Ralph Arza (House Rep.): I will let you know the date and relay that message to Evelio.

Molly Grant (OEL) – Policy, Legislation & Finance Committee

- The bulk of conversation was about meeting with the commissioner, but also how the committee will present their argument and how to put the ball back in his court.

Marcus Rowe (Duval) – Best Practices and Communication Committee

- Ideas for agenda topics for the next ELAC meeting.
- Discussed presentations that were incorporated during the ELAC meetings in the past and which ones would be interesting to circle back around for future meetings.
- The idea is to have more robust conversations about best practices across the state.
- We also want to push for each ELC to send a representative if their board chair cannot attend.

Discussion

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I think that is a great idea. Let's discuss some agenda items today. Does anyone have any items you would like to see on the next Agenda?

Marcus Rowe (Duval): One idea is to come up with a list of two or three key ideas that we talk about during the meeting and spend maybe 45 minutes to an hour discussing. Another idea is to solicit people's feedback when they come in the room, put them up on a page and figure the most common ideas or themes people want to talk about. One more idea is that we set this agenda a month in advance so that ED's can get with their chair and have a robust conversation about what is working and then bring these ideas back to the meeting.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): I'd still like to have almost like a roundtable where we have time in the agenda to go around the room and see if we have things we want to talk about. Positive things that are going well or if we have an issue to positively ask...We talk about really good stuff in our breakout session but there's people over here who didn't hear a word we said because we don't do that with the whole group. It seems like we get to the whole group and everyone stops talking. We break up into these session and we're all talking over each other because we have so much to talk about and something about when we get round this big giant table that seems to be too big for the number of people we have and we all stop talking. That's what I want to figure out, how to get us all to talk amongst ourselves.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): And with attendance, it was brought up in two committees. Can we get something where if you're not showing up to these meetings, you're off ELAC and off your local board? The other thing, if there are some ED's and coalitions that just do not want to participate - do we need to merge that coalition with another coalition that's really participating...If those are the discussions you need to have to get people engaged, then let's have them. Let's put that as an agenda item.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): Adrian, going along the same theme as attendance and being able to get a quorum, has there been a determination on whether is it part of the law or part of policy that a board chair has to be the voting person?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Correct me if I'm wrong, but it was the legal opinion of the OEL attorney that it's got to be the governor-appointed chair.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): So, if I can't be here – then I could send a governor-appointed board member to act as a vote, to make sure that the council always has a quorum?

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): That's our legal opinion. The discussions of best practices, which I think are really the most valuable part of getting everyone together, that doesn't take a quorum, it doesn't take a vote. It's just an exchange of information. So, a delegate and a designee is fine.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): The way it reads, it specifically says the chair of each early learning coalition. It doesn't say the governor-appointed member. It specifically says the chair of the early learning coalition. So, I think based on statutory language that was the conclusion the council came up with.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): I would be in support of relaxing that. I wish we could change that statute because, more important than just the chair being there, we need someone there to represent each coalition. We need someone who can be an ambassador for the ELC, and I would say if, it's good enough for the governor to appoint that person, it would be good enough for this room.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I think that's a point to bring up when you meet with the commissioner. About quorum and whether the chair of the local coalition cannot make the meeting, and if can they send a representative from their board that was appointed by the governor and that person have a voting right, I think would be helpful.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): How about removing people who just don't show up?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Yeah I think there's got to be some authority to remove these people if they don't show up. In our local board there's a process to have some excused absences, if you have a death in the family, I mean there are reasons for people not to be able to make it, but I think if you're missing all the time. I think there should be a mechanism to remove them not only from ELAC, but from their local board if they are not participating.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): We can make a recommendation for them to be removed to either the commission or the governor's office. Is there going to be a motion on that?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): We can vote all we want today. We don't have quorum.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): So, we need people to show up in order to get them removed.

J.B., Interim (Flagler and Volusia): I was just going to talk about best practices again and kind of what Rodney said. We're so different all over the state. Even if it's not appropriate to my coalition and what we're doing, there's going to be something coming out of those stories of best practices that benefits your group, your board and your ability to talk with them. I like the exchanging of ideas. It gets people more excited too. This isn't the best sharing format right here. But when you're in those tight groups like Beth said, people are excited, talking and everything. I think we really learn from each other, so the more of that we can do, the better.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): I have a suggestion. I know that we all get the emails of when the upcoming meeting is. Is Jessica getting a reply back from every single district as to who's attending and who's not? Because we should know ahead of time whether we're going to have a quorum or not.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Yes. Going in to this meeting we thought we were shy three, I believe, I think we are shy one now. So there is a list, unfortunately chairs cannot call other chairs and encourage them to come to these meetings, right? That's my understanding.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): No, but can't Jessica call or email those individuals that we haven't heard from and say, "We don't have a quorum if we don't have three or four more people get on the call."

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): She does, yes.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): It seems like an easy fix with communication process and technology we have.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): So this came up in the committee, in my opinion it's the Executive Directors who should want their chairs here, right. And I think every single executive director should be highly encouraging their chairs to come to this meeting. So I know Jessica does do that, right? I mean you do communicate with them multiple times.

Jessica (OEL): Evelio has actually helped me with that several times as well. You know, piggy backing on my email, and still we don't have much of a response. So that is being done every meeting.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): So there is an effort to get quorum. It's something that is looked at and we're constantly emailing back and forth about getting people here. Again, I think we should start putting agenda items that are going to wake up some of these chairs and ED's and we'll start getting people coming out.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Can we move from an email maybe to a phone call. Maybe the week before, maybe somebody needs to pick up the phone and call. If you're not getting anything with the chairs, maybe call the ED and say, "hey do you have somebody coming?"

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): We've done that. I know Evelio has done that for a few meetings. I've asked him please call your counterparts and encourage them. Some just don't care.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Maybe we need to know that. Tell us who they are.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Well, it's whoever's not here for the most part. Look around and it's the same people who never attend.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): I joined OEL in 2007 and there are chairs I've literally never seen. I don't know their face. I don't know who they are. It's really challenging to get any kind of response out of them. I'll get off the soapbox, but I feel your pain it's frustrating.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): Can we tell the appointments office that? Can we send them a list? It's kind of like ratting people out but...

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): We can.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): And we do and the appointments people just say, appointments is swamped at the moment. It's a process that's for sure.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I say we get a list of those coalitions and one of the agenda items next meeting is merger of coalitions. We can list coalitions who are not participating and see if they want to show up.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): So you guys saw in the matter of like in the last 10-15 minutes this is like another best practice idea that we had come out. We can spend much longer on conversations like this, Mr. Chair. I think that where we get the most robust feedback and idea sharing is when we bring these ideas to light. And you're right, I think the accountability needs to fall on the actual coalitions themselves. I don't think this is an OEL issue. I think this is a coalition issue and it should fall on them. And if they don't have anybody here then shame on them. I think there's an accountability factor that needs to happen.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): Mr. Chairman, if we send a letter that the following members have missed multiple meetings, and send that to the governor's office, to the commissioner of education, and you

expose the reality. It is disrespectful to the ones who are here today, for others to say we don't even care. I mean that's wrong. And that might be the beginning of correcting the dysfunction, holding people accountable. You are going to get appointed to this, then you have to have the decency to show up. Let's be professional about this, let's take action and not talk about it for the next two meetings. Today, let's send a letter to anybody who has missed more than two consecutive meetings, to at least let them know we're calling out the people who are not even showing up or don't even care to show up.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): I've seen that before. Somebody keeps up with the attendance and I've seen tables with all the chairs showing the meetings they attended and the ones they didn't. It's appalling when you look across the board at the ones who don't come, don't come and don't come. I had to change my plans and fly here last night instead of driving. And then fly to Mississippi tonight because I have a meeting that's changed and it's going to cost the state a lot of money for me to change tickets at the last minute. But I went through the trouble and did it and I'm here and really annoyed/aggravated with people who never come and keep my voice from having a vote because they don't come.

Victor Mraz (SWFL): How many ED's aren't in the room today either?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): What's participation like at the ED meeting? Is it same coalitions not showing?

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): No, generally it's much better. I think there's only one that never shows. So it's a lot better there. So we can draft a letter if you want to.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Let's draft the letter, let's get it out.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): So what is the criteria?

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): I would say one meeting. To be honest we only meet four times a year, so if you miss one meeting that's a lot.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I think if you miss a meeting and don't send representation...I think if your coalition was not represented at any one of the last 4-6 meetings or something to that effect. But I would like to see further, I think the ones who haven't come to any need to be highlighted...its possible somebody had a last minute emergency and couldn't make it.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Show a table or a spreadsheet of the last three years. These are the coalitions and these are the meetings they attended. Its facts, put it out there.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): I'm fine with that but need a cut off so we don't have to meet again to decide.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): From January 1, 2017.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): It's going to be the same people, it's going to stick out. It doesn't matter what period you pick, I think it's going to be more than just one in the last four.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): Chair, can I just read a quick little blurb that I think might actually help everybody in the room? We all have bylaws at our coalitions and I just flipped to the membership section where it actually talks about absences. It says, "All members with unexcused absences from three consecutive meetings or more than 50% of scheduled meetings within a 12 month period shall be notified by the chair in writing that their membership is not in good standing. A copy of the letter shall also be forwarded to the mandating members, appointed authorities, supervisory board or other appropriate governing agency."

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): In Miami-Dade we have the same, but after the third it's considered a resignation and you're off the board. We've gotten governor-appointed people off our boards for missing. But we don't have bylaws right? We tried coming up with bylaws and were told we couldn't do bylaws, which I think is part of the problem. We're kind of in this area of, we can't just kick somebody off to kick somebody off. We have to go through this process of writing a letter and sending it up to the governor's office and the appointment office. Yes, I think some of these people should be kicked off, but how do you replace them? It has to be a governor-appointed person, which is a little bit more difficult for this board to do. But I think we need to highlight which coalitions are not coming and start putting things on the agenda that will hopefully get them to participate.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Another question. Does this letter need to come from Rodney? Or does it need to come from Adrian? Or does it need to come from both of you together? Maybe somebody might pay attention if it's all of us talking.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I think it comes on behalf of ELAC, of all its members. And if you all want to sign it, by all means. But I think it has got to come from this board.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Sounds good to me.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): What about a full attendance record over the last, mailed out with that letter showing the attendance of all the coalitions for previous meetings? Because, if you are going to call a spade a spade and you're going to call everybody out on not attending, show the ones who are attending not just the ones who are not attending. Does that make sense?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Yeah. That's what Beth had recommended. To attach the roster and maybe highlight in the letter the ones who have really not participated whatsoever, but include the entire roster to make it public as to who's coming and who's not coming to meetings.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): Ok. Thank you.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): Mr. Chair, you see a lot of new chairs around the table for that reason. We're starting to get some people who are really engaged, want to make a difference. It's not that those who've been attending didn't want to make a difference, but I think there are some people who want to be here in the room. Leigh's on the call. She wanted to be here, but she's on the call, right? She made the effort. I appreciate the people who want to make the effort. We're all taking time out of our schedules.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I've heard it could be that some of these chairs may be misinformed about what ELAC is and have been encouraged not to participate by their ED's or someone else told them don't go to that it's useless, for whatever reason. But I think we have to get to them somehow. I think it's a good start. Anything else from your committee? So you guys are going to meet soon I guess to start coming up with specific agenda items, and if we're going to get speakers... invite speakers to come.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): Yeah. We are going to encourage it to be grouped idea sharing across the table. Maybe for this first meeting it is more idea sharing across the table and from that the idea comes where Miami has something good in IT or maybe we bring someone who's great at talking about dollar match. Whatever that maybe we bring someone in to have the conversation and share with the group as a whole. I think we can build that into the agenda. I'm happy to spend more time on this. We are going to meet more regularly and then we can work with OEL to help craft that agenda.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Yes, and as far as OEL, when all the committees meet are we informing everybody of those?

Jessica Fowler (OEL): Yes, the OEL liaison is sending the meeting invite to the committee members and BCC-ing all of you guys. So you all should be getting that information.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Do we also want to invite the executive directors to those committee meetings? I say we start including all the ED's as well.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Maybe somehow we can make it plainer. I got a meeting invite for a committee I'm not on but it was not very plain about what it was. I was kind of like, "did I get on that committee too?" I was confused when I got it. We're not stupid but we're all busy, and we may need a little more explanation sometimes as to what exactly is happening and what is expected.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough) – ELAC Strategic Planning and Rules Committee

- 2nd year of chairing this committee; last year's mission was to set mission and vision of ELAC, which were approved during last meeting.
- Goal of committee is to make sure ELAC meetings are both purposeful and efficient.
- Ideas discussed:
 - Committee had privilege of hearing from Saralyn Grass and Gordon Gillette. Gordon is the ED at Hillsborough. Saralyn is the head of the AELC.
 - Propose that, since the EDs meet the day before we meet, we could basically merge our days. Logistically it's a lot easier - the EDs don't have to spend two days, two hotel nights, two days out of work. And the EDs want to be at the table and they want us at their table. Could do this for October meeting.
 - Also suggested that for each meeting we invite a legislator. Legislators attract people and we can talk to them year round, not just during legislative session.
 - Another conversation was held regarding meetings during session in Tallahassee; It's hard to meet during session due restriction on hotel rooms, which was proven in March However, there's always a committee week in December, so propose idea of meeting in Tallahassee before the session. It doesn't matter if it's an odd or even year or election year. They are always going to meet in December.
 - Another item is to make sure we have list of what OEL will be doing. One of the suggestions Christina had was to have a task list and a time stamp, so there's no miscellaneous scheduling on what we're waiting on from people - we actually have an accountability line on what OEL is doing.
 - Last thing discussed was making sure the ED's legislative sub-committee presents at the next ELAC meeting since they are going to do the work for what we need to do next session. A comment was made regarding a rumor that coalitions were going to be dismantled in the next session. ELAC needs to show solidarity with the EDs and tag along on their agendas.
 - Another suggestion discussed is that at every meeting, that either the governor or lieutenant governor attend one of our meetings. If we do it enough, one of them will show up and of course we'll have great dialogue. In Hillsborough we just had two elected officials, for the first time in 5 years since I've been chair, show up to our meeting and started talking. It was amazing how much they didn't know. We then asked them to come on a provider visit and they said yes. Now they know much more than they did before, so they can represent us better in Tallahassee. I think if we do the four times a year when we meet, we meet with the ED's, ED's meet 8 times a year so four times a year there are joint meetings and its one day.
 - Van brought up networking with the other chairs and that was a big benefit right now. The year before last we hosted a networking reception, but maybe that's what you do. You

come in the night before, and all the ED's and the chairs network and maybe do dinner. The next day you have your meeting and you're gone that day. This way, it'll save money for the ED's it'll be a lot logistically beneficial because you aren't going to have a full day of either meeting.

- We did talk about the statute brought up earlier; we want to push forward with Senator Bogdanoff, I know she's not here, but want to ask her to do that again, as far as asking them to change the statute regarding sunshine laws. I don't know what the logistics to that, maybe, Mr. Arza can shed some light on that. But if we dismantle now, we would lose power and we have power, we just don't use it and we're just not telling anyone about the positive things we are doing.

Discussion

Marcus Rowe (Duval): This is outside of your committee but just a quick question. Is there a rhyme or reason for location of meetings and why we have them all over the state as opposed to more central?

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Generally it's planned to be in partnership with the conference. That's what we thought would encourage folks to come and get some cost savings as well as some efficiencies there.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): If we merge or formalized a partnership with AELC your cost will obviously be reduced. They have logistics already planned. This was brought up because in Tallahassee there was an extra cost for ELAC to meet, because of the room stipend and there was \$3,000 we had to spend extra. Literally we didn't need it because there was no meeting. That's part of the reason we came up with this because its \$108,000 each meeting, I think that's the number you gave regarding DOE costs...

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): No. That is the total annual cost counting staff time as well.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Hopefully we can reduce that with this partnership. I don't know how we can decide today since we don't have a quorum, but our committee was pretty adamant that we try this at least for October. Then, if we could move the meeting to December this session which would basically replace our spring meeting.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I think the first thing we have to look at Jessica is if we can get out of the contract that we have for October, and then if we can possibly move it to Tallahassee for early December, is that what you are recommending?

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): No, I thought he was saying we're going to have the October meeting and then have December in place of February.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): This way we'll meet before the legislative session which starts in January anyway. Since its committee week legislators will be there and theoretically we can invite them.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I'm all for it. My only concern is with the last meeting, you had two meetings back to back and nobody showed up for the second meeting.

Jessica Fowler (OEL): Chair, just to clarify what Aakash is trying to say - instead of the fall meeting, we would do the December meeting and that following year we would start that first quarter meeting a little bit later, like March.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Which is fine, but again if we have the October and the December within a month with the holidays and all, that's my only concern is whether you'll lose people.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Well this year we don't need to because it's not an election year and the session starts January 1st so we are technically meeting before the session and there's nothing really going to change legislatively before October 25 of the session, right. So that would be the purpose of it so when you're in the session everything is already done. My question to the group today is, is that something we want to do for October? I think it will be a lot better for me to go to Destin save the ED cost save our cost and do one day in and out but....

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I totally agree, but I guess let's have Marcus's committee start working on the agenda to see what they're going to come up with cause if we have enough, its already set and we can get out of the contract we'll do it the way we're doing it now and maybe we can beef up our agenda and we can have our own meeting.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): For October?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): For October

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): and then the next meeting will be?

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): The next meeting is scheduled for...

Jessica Fowler (OEL): I don't have it in front of me but...

Saralyn Grass (AELC): January 7 in Orlando. We have a contract for that too, the first week in January.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): So the January meeting we would just keep as regular?

Jessica Fowler (OEL): So from my understanding from our committee meeting was we were going to do the December...try and push back the falling meeting for 2020.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Oh. You weren't talking about this calendar year.

Jessica Fowler (OEL): Yeah. But I agree with you about the meetings back to back and you know different months. Like February and March it just wasn't....

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Was the January date set around the ED's meeting or are they meeting the day before?

Jessica Fowler (OEL): Yes. They always meet the day before.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): What I think we can decide here today is if we want to do that. Maybe starting in January we try to condense if we can't get out of the contract in October.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): There's a contract for January. We can look at the contract for January. I think if we start beefing up our own agenda, right? And we start moving in a positive way I think we can fill up an entire day worth of items. So I want to give Marcus's committee and opportunity to work on agenda and if they feel we have enough for an entire day then so be it, if not we can decide in October whether we want to merge the two meetings for January. And I know that there was a time where we talked about that and I thought there was an issue about having those two meetings together.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): The issue that came up is that a lot of ED's felt that the presence of their board chair would stifle the candor of the meeting.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Plus if the EDs have enough to talk about amongst themselves to have a whole day, that's fine. Let them, but then let's also include them in our meeting the next day. Maybe

they have to say some of the same things twice, but if they say some the same things twice to a different set of ears that might be a good thing. They're usually here anyways, the ones who care.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Can I ask Saralyn a question? Saralyn, is it possible to take a straw poll vote of your ED's to see if they care if we merge or not... or participate?

Saralyn Grass (AELC): We have an association meeting tomorrow and can discuss that and get back to ELAC on Friday, does that work?

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Works great, thank you.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): They can't be candid now, so they...

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): I don't want them to think we're trying to hijack their meeting because if they want to meet separately without us then that's not our purview to tell them...

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): I think the only reason why we merge is if we really become, I don't want to say relevant but we have two hours' worth of business to discuss and we'll just do it in conjunction with or part of...we'll carve out two hours after the ED meeting to have our meeting. If we can get a good agenda going, a good topics and we can discuss then I think we can continue to do what we've been doing. But we need participation, we need good agenda items and input from everybody. Every single chair has to contribute something in making this happen.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Well the hope is that the ED's who show up will then tell their chairs hey look what's going on and hopefully we'll get better attendance.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Thank you Mr. Chair.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): That concludes my report.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Any other comments or questions on the committee breakouts...It's almost lunchtime, we really only have one other item on the agenda. Which is a group that Aakash invited to come speak to us today. Are they here yet?

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Yes Lisa is here.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): So if it's okay with everybody, its 11:45 a.m., I suggest we have them present and we'll just adjourn after that versus breaking out for lunch and coming back. If that's ok with everybody?

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): In Hillsborough we partner with a couple different organizations...Back to Marcus's point about best practices, this is something that's worked. It's still in its infancy, but we have a 3-year contract with them. She'll talk about an overall view and not just what they're doing in Hillsborough. It's called the Hillsborough Early Learning Network Professional Development Partnership and I can tell you the school district is really happy, our children's services council is very happy and our board, specifically, has been very excited.

Special Presentation

Jennifer Park (University of Florida Lastinger Center)

- Lastinger Center founded in 2002 through vision and good intentions of Allen and Dolores Lastinger.
- Originally started as think tank organization within UF to help teachers develop support in their practice, reflective practice.

- Since 2002 launch, investments in early childhood, mathematics, literacy, and school safety have developed, and so Lastinger has evolved over time with the hallmark really being research based effective practices.
- Focus of the Lastinger Center is really on the delivery and how effective professionals can be working in their community of learners and delivering content.
- Our statewide goals include: kindergarten readiness, reading by third grade, algebra proficiency for every ninth grader, with equity lens in approach.
- Take various approaches in meeting needs of professionals:
 - Online blended learning;
 - Group cohort of instructors who can facilitate learning based on the level of support teachers need. Provides some structure, but flexibility in how teachers receive the information;
 - Coaching;
 - Access to the various technologies and content; and
 - Third party evaluations by partners at Yale University.
- Focus on high quality content the end use experience. We pride ourselves in having content that was developed by teachers for teachers, and teachers in communities really give us the feedback. Communities who are managing systems are those driving the innovations that we facilitate.

Lisa Sutter (Program Coordinator, Hillsborough Early Learning Network)

- An example of the way in which we approach facilitated learning for teachers and directors within the Hillsborough Early Learning Network. This is something called a “Maître d’ protocol” and the intention behind it is to create a space where adult learners can thrive in both reflection on their own practice, learning about what works well from their peers and then applying it to their practice going forward.
- This sets up sort of a structure for our adult learners to be engaged within and facilitates thinking components along the way. What we know from adult learning is that we like to learn when we think about ourselves and what it means for us on the regular, how it bounces off or squares with our colleagues, and what it means for my work going forward - the “What’s in it for me?”
- The first opportunity if we were to facilitate this protocol is to create a “table for three,” which invites the practitioners in the group to gather in groups of three, think about a time where they felt great about an experience as an adult learner and then share specifics about what made that so successful of an experience for them.
- When the time concludes, they then turn to an additional set of colleagues, in this case just another person, for a “table of two” opportunity. In this place they are comparing and contrasting. “Here’s the things I just thought about that made my adult learning experience so great and here’s the things in the past I’ve struggled with.” So, they think of a time where they struggled as an adult learner and what would have been helpful for them. Then, in that table for two conversation, which is a little more intimate because there’s vulnerability in sharing about personal struggles, they get an opportunity to hear from one another about what’s similar and what they took away from those experiences.
- Finally, as a last component of this facilitated learning protocol is a “table for four.” This is where they come together as a full group, and think about applying the reflections they’ve just engaged with into next steps.
- So, going forward as you plan or engage in adult learning experience what will you include and look for? So I’m going to invite you all, I know that this is not a facilitated adult learning moment here but

more of an information sharing opportunity, but I'm going to invite you all to consider each of these questions as we go forward throughout the conversation. Think back to a time, when you as an adult learner felt great about your experience. Think about what made that successful and identify a time where you may have struggled as an adult learner and what would have been helpful to you in those instances. And then finally what would you think about including in an adult learning experience as you go forward, maybe for yourself to start with and then for the practitioners you may be supporting in your own community.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Well thank you, and on behalf of our Executive Director Gordon Gillette, and thank you for making time to speak to us for moving up your schedule, we were ahead of schedule. Any questions? Go ahead Marcus.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): I just wanted to say thank you for speaking to us today. Lastinger is one of our key partners in Duval County and so I really appreciate you sharing that with us today.

Lisa Sutter (UF Guest): Thank you.

Adrian Alfonso (MDM): Any other comments or questions? Thank you very much. Aakash thank you very much for inviting and bringing them in. Two more quick things, we have a quick update from EFS team and the Association of the Early Learning Coalitions.

EFS Mod Update

Andrea Latham, Interim Project Manager

- VPK attendance and reimbursement was a much cleaner rollout.
- SR attendance and reimbursement module is available. Most ELC's are starting with the collection of attendance rosters to evaluate the accuracy.
- There are issues with some SR data; fixes are within release 3.5.2.
- Gearing up for release 4.0. Over 40 items, which will include enhancements as well as new features.
- We are asking for support from the coalitions to help test these items in the new release.
- The more participation we have in UAT testing before items are released, the better.
- After 4.0 release in April, we will be working on contract amendments and items related to HB 1091.
- We have a coalition workgroup to help bring issues to light as well as prioritize items.

AELC Update

Lindsay Carson, Chair of the Association of Early Learning Coalitions

- Association hosted annual symposium last month; shared best practices, approximately 250 attendees.

Public Comment

Tammy Tener, Executive Director of the Florida Family Child Care Home Association (FFCCHA)

- Introduction of Family Child Care Provider in Broward County.

Wrap up and Adjourn

- Please be sure to sign your travel authorization form and hand to OEL staff.
- Next meeting: Oct. 25, 2019 – Destin.
 - Meeting Adjourned 3:34 p.m.